

## THE MEN HANDLING THE CHINO-JAPANESE QUESTION



Lu Chen-hsiang,  
Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs, who represents  
the republic in the negotiations with Japan.



Mr. Eki Hioki,  
Japanese Minister in Pekin, who conveyed his Gov-  
ernment's demands to China.

mitted. Japan also has been asked to reimburse China for the losses attendant upon the campaign against the former German port.

Meanwhile the demands are the subject of constant discussion throughout Japan, and various political organizations are clamoring for drastic measures against China if she persists in her refusal. The opinion that Japan should establish a predominating influence in China is prevalent all over Japan, where the belief prevails that China is Japan's natural and rightful field for expansion.

The Government is being urged on by the semi-official press, which says that there is no need for the Government to heed the adverse criticisms of foreign countries. The first official hint that the Government would propose a minimum of concessions China must meet was received with warm public approval, but this was as nothing compared with the public acclaim which followed word that the Government would deliver an ultimatum in the event of China's continued obstinacy.

It is understood in Tokyo that if negotiations with China are entirely broken the second and third Japanese fleets at Saaboo, the naval base, will straightway be despatched to the north of China.

The greatest interest prevails regarding the attitude of the United States and regarding Japan's reply to the American inquiry concerning the maintenance of the "open door" in China. The Japanese Government has caused reports to be circulated that there is no intention of violating the terms of the "open door" agreement. The departure of George W. Guthrie, the American ambassador to Japan, is generally accepted as indicating a feeling of perfect harmony between the United States and Japan.

The consular orders sent out by Japan have resulted in a general flight from Mukden, say dispatches from there via Peking. Gold has increased in value 30 silver cents a yen. There are no Japanese civilians left in Mukden except the bankers and railway officials.

Strategic positions about the city are occupied by Japanese troops, and Chinese soldiers are said to be drawing up at the south of the city.

The Japanese barracks at Hankow have been prepared for a siege, and many Japanese have left the city, although the Chinese appear entirely unconcerned.

## JAPAN NEEDS MONEY.

Must Obtain It or Lose Her Power, Says Editor.

The Japanese demands upon China are the result of Japan's imperative need of money, in the opinion of an American, George Bronson Rea, editor of the *Far Eastern Review* of Shanghai and Manila, a commercial newspaper conducted for the benefit of merchants of all nations in the Orient. Naturally Mr. Rea, who is now in New York, does not take sides.

"I have no quarrel with the rights and wrongs of the situation," Mr. Rea explained yesterday, "except as they may concern my own country. I believe, however, that the facts, which I am familiar with, greatly concern the United States, although this seems not to have been recognized here.

"Japan is a military nation, a nation ruled by a small class of imperialists, and the country is in serious financial straits in this way: If the ruling class's programme is to be carried out, money must be found for it somewhere outside the empire, and found in abundance.

"With Japan it is a case of getting plenty of money quickly or going out of business. In the case of course, Japanese statesmen have no intention of letting the empire recede an inch from the important rank she attained by her victories in the war with Russia.

"The national debt is large and the heavy taxes are swallowed up by interest charges. The Government of Japan has pledged everything it has as collateral for loans from foreign banks, and the Government owns monopolies of salt, tobacco and camphor. There is no important natural resource of the empire that the Government has not already raked for profit.

"Japan has gone so far as to take municipal monies for national purposes. The bonds of the cities of Kobe and other principal cities have been sold in Europe, but most of the money went into the imperial treasury.

"What is the empire's need? It must have money for more warships, for the army, to meet its heavy obligations. It has nothing left to put up as collateral. It must obtain the money outside the empire. Where? There is only one place. China abounds in undeveloped natural wealth. In spite of the European war Japan has been able to secure money from her foreign loans on her feet. Given a year or two more and she would be financially safe and sound and in a position to protect herself from foreign aggression to an extent she has never been able to in the past.

"Such an eventually Japan cannot contemplate with equanimity. She has the leading role in the Far East and cannot allow another country to wax strong and compete with her for the hegemony of the East. Hence, China possesses all those rich natural resources on which money, much money, can be raised.

"Now is the time. European nations are engaged in a war at home. The United States is paying little heed; is unconcerned. For a year and a half China has a chance to get on her feet. Therefore the Japanese demands are made upon China at this time, and they will be pressed to a decision. I am confident that Japan will now go ahead, no matter what the cost.

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"America had only to do her duty," the Colonel is quoted as saying, "but preferred to shrink it."

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should be short sighted enough to take a course that is likely to arouse the jealousy and hostility of other Powers after the European war, when their goodwill and confidence will be of importance to her."

The *Times* expects that even at the eleventh hour the Japanese statesmen will avert a catastrophe.

"DROWNED" BY POISON GASES.

German Method of War Said to Cause Untold Tortures.

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LONDON, May 4.—The British Government has sent Dr. John Scott Haldane, an expert on gases in mines and similar subjects, to the front to experiment with methods for counteracting the asphyxiating gases used by the Germans. The Government is considering supplying the troops with woollen helmets containing cotton, which would neutralize the chemicals and fumes with toxic windows.

The *Daily Mail's* correspondent in north France says the use of asphyxiating gases by the Germans has so infuriated the troops of the Allies as to sometimes give a new character to the fighting, which is extraordinarily bitter. The correspondent adds:

"The use of gases has introduced a new and important factor in operations. The generals have to consider the wind as carefully as a sea captain, compelling them to make a tactical decision as to whether it is desirable to make an assault.

"Further evidence is given daily of the terrible after sufferings of the victims of these gases. Their lungs fill with a watery matter which increases in volume until the victim virtually dies by slow drowning, a process lasting from twenty-four to forty-eight hours, the patient meanwhile enduring horrible tortures and struggling to breathe."

WAR NEWS IN BRIEF.

Japan's ultimatum to China, giving the republic until Sunday to reply to the Japanese demands, was received by the Japanese Legation in Peking last night for delivery to the Chinese Government. The semi-official press in Tokyo urges aggressive action if China fails to comply with the demands.

The State Department in Washington gave out a statement last night covering the negotiations between China and Japan in which it is declared that the United States has received full assurances from Japan that she will not violate any treaty rights of China's integrity and that she will express that a peaceful solution will be achieved.

The Austro-German offensive between the Vistula and the Carpathians appears to have been checked. Meanwhile a new Austrian offensive is developing through the Lupkow and Uzok passes in the Carpathians. The German General Staff claims the capture of 40,000 prisoners in the fighting in west Galicia.

A Vienna dispatch received in Rome, uncensored, says that the proposed mission of Count Goluchowski to Rome has been abandoned. It is believed in Rome that Austria has given up all hope of averting war with Italy.

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## JAPAN'S STAND FAIR, SAYS DR. IYENAGA

Object of Demands Is to Protect Integrity of China. He Asserts.

NO MONOPOLY SOUGHT

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"There are two things that must be kept in mind when considering the situation in China. In the first place China is weak externally. In the second place internal disorder is rampant. The Government there is neither strong enough to protect itself from outside aggression nor to maintain order within its borders. The great mass of the people are uneducated. They have no understanding of the great changes that have come about through the establishment of a republic. The truth is that there are local uprisings everywhere. Violence is as much a part of life as the Chinese people as well as of foreigners in the land."

"Here arises the reason why the maintenance of order through such an effective police system as Japan proposes is urgent. Japan and other countries are seeking concessions in China. But of what avail are concessions, what inducement is there for enterprise if the fruits of enterprise are to be dissipated because of the inability of the Government to maintain order? The revolution has been social as well as political and the ordinary rules of society which obtain in civilized countries do not obtain in China. A vast upheaval is going on and Japan feels that she must protect her own citizens as well as those of other countries if China is unable to do it."

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